

May 23, 1979



Colorado Liberty

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"Atlas Shrugged" Shelved

Citing a lack of material in its thousand-plus pages, NBC has quietly shelved plans to make Ayn Rand's "Atlas Shrugged" into an eight hour television series. Fred Silverman, the man brought to NBC to revive the network's ratings (and the man that brought us the unforgettable entertainment drama "Charlie's Angels"), has apparently decided not to air the Rand-approved Sterling Silliphant screenplay, originally scheduled to air in the fall of 1980.

Because of the potentially incredible gains that could be realized by the Libertarian Party if the airing coincided with its 1980 Presidential Campaign, an organization has been formed to pressure NBC to reconsider its plans. Richard Saum, Chairman of the Committee to Save Atlas Shrugged (87 Mallard Avenue, Goleta, CA 93017, (805) 967-9446), urges all libertarians and readers of Ayn Rand to write directly to:

Fred Silverman
National Broadcasting Company
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY 10020

If you ever wanted to say "Thank You, Ayn Rand," now is your chance. Maybe your last chance.

Governor Vetoes Censorship Bill

A controversial censorship bill was situated on Governor Dick Lamm's desk and the calls, letters, and telegrams kept pouring in.

The measure, SB 450, would have prohibited display and sale of "sexually explicit"

Libertarians Protest Draft Renewal

Members of the Colorado Libertarian Party, Young Americans for Freedom, and Students for a Libertarian Society held a public rally on the Auraria campus May 1 to protest proposals to reinstitute the draft. The rally was part of a nation-wide series of protests in major cities co-ordinating SLS.

About fifty people clustered around the front steps of St. Cajetan's church at the edge of the campus for the noon rally. Neil Harlan of YAF, who had set up the PA equipment and literature tables spoke to the crowd as it gathered, emphasizing the drafting of everyone, including women, and the lack of student deferments as features of most of the existing proposals for renewed conscription. SLS's special draft supplement issue of *Liberty* was available, as well as copies of the May issue of *Libertarian Review*, which focused most of its content on the new draft threat.

The featured speaker was Karl Hess, making the last of several appearances in the Denver area after his well-received address to the CLP convention in Central City the previous weekend. Hess urged his listeners to resist the new draft without compromise, pointing out its key role in a militaristic, colonial foreign policy. He suggested



Loran Gayton argues forcefully for the anti-draft position at the May 1 Auraria Draft Protest. John Mason, CLP State Chair, and Karl Hess are in the background preparing to address the crowd. (Rocky Mountain News photograph)

Today's Logic Claim Your Losses

Theft losses are deductible. And inflation is theft.

One of the instructions on our income tax returns provides that certain losses can be deducted. It says, on page 17, "You may be able to deduct all or part of each loss caused by theft, vandalism, fire," etc.

You enter the amount of the loss on line 25 of your 1040.

Let's suppose you had \$10,000 in a savings account on January 1, 1978. And that you didn't withdraw any money during the year. And that 5% or \$500.00 was added as interest during the year. So your balance on December 31, 1978 was \$10,500.00.

IRS wants you to pay taxes on the \$500.00 interest. But wait.

According to the United States government, as stated in their Consumer Price Index (CPI), it took \$181.50 on January 1, 1978, to buy what \$100.00 would have

bought in 1967.

And, again according to the CPI, it took \$202.90 on January 1, 1979, to buy the equivalent amount of goods and services.

To get the value of your dollars you divide 1.00 by the CPI.

The value of your dollars on January 1, 1978, was slightly over .55¢. On January 1, 1979, they were only worth slightly over .49¢. Their value had decreased by 10.55%.

How much was your loss?

In the example above where you had \$10,000.00 on deposit during the entire year, multiply that amount by 10.55%. Your loss amounted to \$1,055.00. That amount was actually stolen from you by inflation.

Since theft losses are deductible, why couldn't you claim, as a deduction, whatever you lost by inflation?

Who stole your money? What can you do about it?

by James W. Phelps

Let's say you owed me money. And let's say I stole some money from you.

And let's say I sued you for the money you owed me.

Can you imagine any court not letting you offset against your debt the amount I had stolen from you? Of course not. At least, not if you make out a good case proving that I was the one who stole your money.

Well, a good case can be made proving that the government is the only, or at least principal, cause of inflation.

The government has increased the money supply over the years by just about the same rate as the rate of inflation.

The government stole your money.

So, instead of deducting your loss as a theft loss, why not claim it as a credit against your taxes the same way you claim money withheld by your employer?

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Calendar and Announcements

June 9: Utah Libertarian Party State Convention, Salt Lake City, Utah (Contact CLP)

June 13: CLPCP—Informal get-together, cash bar, 1624 Market Street, Suite 400, Denver (above Alexander Graham's) 7:00 PM-9:30 PM

June 23, 24: Political Action Workshop Des Moines, Iowa. Organized by the Iowa and National parties (Contact CLP)

June 27: CLP Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, 2225 Buchtel Blvd., #711, Denver

July 4: CLP Barbecue. Bring your own whatever, 1:00 PM. CLP Delegate Caucus, 4:00 PM, 58 South Emerson, Denver

July 12-15: Branden Intensive: Self-Esteem and Romantic Relationships. Contact Jan Prince, 832-8187

July 25: CLP Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, 168 South Emerson, Denver

August 8: CLPCP, 7:00 PM-9:30 PM, 1624 Market Street, Suite 400, Denver

August 22: CLP Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, 1175 Vine Street, #305, Denver

Sept. 6-9: 1979 Libertarian Party Presidential Nominating Convention, Los Angeles, California (Contact CLP)

***** Karl Hess's speech before the 1979 CLP Convention is available on cassette tape for \$6.00. Contact John Mason, 733-5916

***** Any CLP member planning to attend the Nominating Convention in Los Angeles that is interested in being an alternate delegate should contact Dave Nolan, 759-2244

***** Any person interested in sharing office space, secretarial services, telephone answering, etc. with other libertarians—contact John Mason, 733-5916

***** The CLP is interviewing for the position of Editor for the *Colorado Liberty*. Any interested CLP members should contact M.L. Hanson, 321-7928

They Search Trash, Don't They?

The Carter Administration has drafted a governing charter for the Federal Bureau of Investigation that imposes new restrictions on the bureau's employment of controversial investigative techniques.

The proposed charter, the first in the FBI's history, spells out the duties and powers of the bureau. It specifically requires the FBI to observe constitutional rights, and establishes safe-guards against unchecked harassment, break-ins and other past abuses.

At the same time, however, it authorizes illegal actions and expands FBI access to private, confidential information. It sanctions use of mail surveillance, trash searches, and recruitment of journalists as informants. It also exempts information about informants from the disclosure requirements of the Freedom of Information Act.

In an expansion of FBI powers that is sure to provoke opposition from civil libertarians, the charter gives the bureau access to

third party records, such as credit and insurance documents, through the use of "investigative demand." In other words, the charter permits access that doesn't require a grand jury subpoena.

Our trash today, tomorrow our homes? . . .

The ongoing conspiracy against Liberty is a coalition of those who are afraid it won't work and those who are afraid it will.

by L. Neil Smith

Against the Grain And Speaking of Searches . . .

It's now possible for anyone to cobble up a fully operative handgun from "space-age" plastic, rubber bands, and a few bits of ceramic. Such a weapon won't shoot very hard or very far, nor sustain many repeated firings, but it'll protect you from a mugger, rapist, or burglar—or help you hijack an

Try reading the paper sometime—or give a listen to Uncle Walter.

As usual, federal regulations have actually made things worse. Metal detectors and other means have unduly emphasized firearms, thus encouraging a switch to non-metallic and wholly indiscriminating bombs.

on their big iron birds—that, or you don't fly to Cleveland.

The important point is that refusal of service is the *only* sanction private parties may legitimately wield. If they find a gun on your person, they can ask you to check it with the attendants. If they find, say, drugs, it's none

up—god, your breath'd knock a skunk off a dumpster! Now bend over and *squat*. No, I'm not kidding—*spread those cheeks!* This won't hurt—*much!*"

The Chicago Procedure calls for a septic, ungloved hand probing your rectum (to make sure there's no .45 stashed up there).

firings, but it'll protect you from a mugger, rapist, or burglar—or help you hijack an airplane.

I mention this, not as an underground gunsmithing tip, nor as a plea for stricter gun control (if you knew me better, it wouldn't even cross your mind), but as a warning: the easy days are over for the Libertarian conscience.

Until now, some of us could cozily avoid the touchy issue of "airport security." (I've been advised my concern here is "silly"—possibly damaging to the LP's "image.") It's painless, after all, and only *morally* intrusive. Step through the arches, let the bored, sleazy, second-rate rent-a-cop wave her wicket around under your armpits, collect your irradiated purse or briefcase, your camera with its freshly-fogged Ektachrome, your sack-lunch glowing softly in the twilight, and move on down the concourse—then run back because you forgot to retrieve your keys and pocket change from the little plastic bucket.

It's even sort of morbidly interesting—the first hundred times—and keeps us safe from all those terrorists and lunatics, doesn't it? Doesn't it?

Other means have unduly emphasized firearms, thus encouraging a switch to non-metallic and wholly indiscriminating bombs. Now, if the stewardess makes a wrong move, instead of one person getting nailed—usually with a comparatively low-powered .22 or .25—the entire planeload gets blown away. Progress, government-style.

In docilely accepting this situation, we've been sold one of those "package deals" Ayn Rand used to warn about. If you're disturbed by increasingly blurred distinctions between government and corporate power, I have a small question for you: what, precisely, is the legal status of airport security personnel? Are they nice, anarchocapitalistic private police, or agents of a coercive State? Don't ask them—they're enjoying the benefits of both.

You see, if they were official policepersons, several Articles of our bedraggled Constitution might prevent them digging through your clothing and possessions without a court-issued warrant naming you specifically, along with all the hangers-on and relatives who've come to see you off. But as private cops, they could only frisk you as an explicit contractual condition of travelling

legitimately wield. If they find a gun on your person, they can ask you to check it with the attendants. If they find, say, drugs, it's none of their business.

But what really happens? Well, pretending to be civilian snoopers, they shake your little bod down in the name of keeping their customers and capital gods in working condition. But let 'em whiff something they don't approve of, *SHAZAM!!*—they instantly become minions of the Law—alarms go off, they beat you soundly about your democratic assumptions, and heave you into some dungeon for eleventh thousand years. And you don't get your dope back.

The best of both possible worlds—for fascists.

You're asking what this has to do with space-age plastic zip-gun? Simple: as soon as the crooks and crazies figure out that bullet-proof polycarbonates can be whittled into weapons, the "authorities" will start doing what cops in Houston and elsewhere have been doing to women for years—*skin searches*.

"Take off your clothes. All your clothes, stupid—this ain't a game we're playing here! Lemme see in your mouth—come on, open

The Chicago Procedure calls for a septic, ungloved hand probing your rectum (to make sure there's no .45 stashed up there), and then the same fingers, unwashed, exploring your vagina (if you have one) for additional contraband. There's probably a tiny percentage of the public who'll enjoy this—and a substantial number of parasitic creeps who'll love being paid to do it.

Given present superstitions concerning the overriding necessity and legitimacy of airport searches, and given the invention of electronically undetectable weapons, this is what you'll go through whenever you "Fly the Friendly Skies."

Now if you still believe my preoccupation with this matter is "silly" or bad PR, you can pretend you didn't read this—hell, you've been ignoring a blatant violation of individual rights and personal privacy pretty well so far.

But if you don't look forward to having some unsanitary bureaucratic digit shoved up your crevices in the near future—and the instant any searches were permitted, this scenario became inevitable—then support my efforts to make airport security a major issue.

LJP serving your philatelic needs

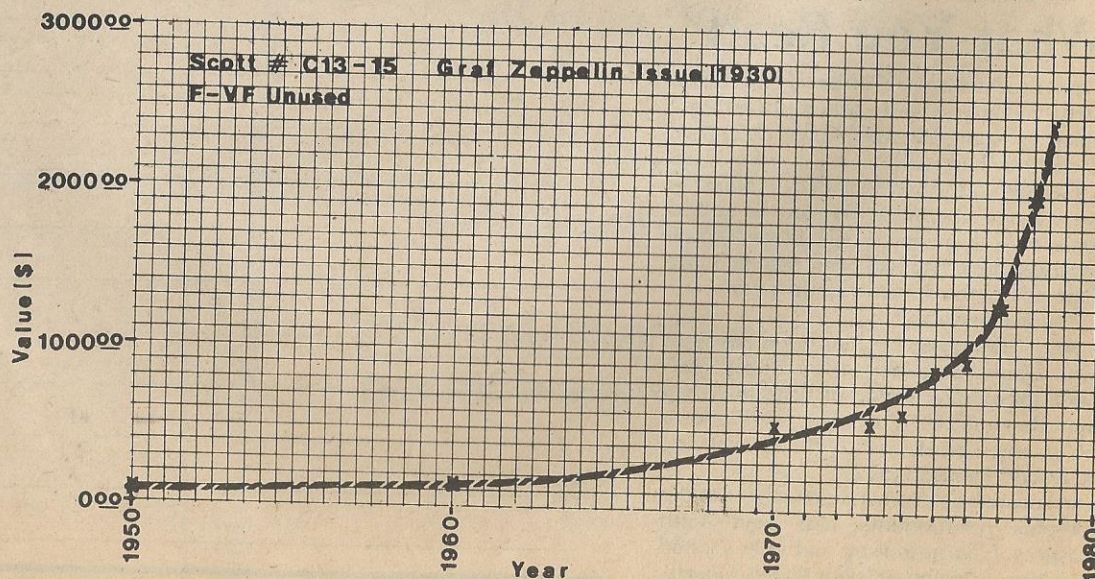


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Stopping the Income Tax Juggernaut

by Patrick L. Lilly

Now that everyone's gotten over the trauma of filing an income tax return and our Congresspeople are all busy posturing over balancing the federal budget, what's really happening on the income tax front?

Well, nothing. Or more precisely, more of the same. While Washington is a-buzz with talk of *how much* tax revenue to raise and which programs should be cut, we can hardly afford not to notice that no one in the Congress has proposed to reduce the power or jurisdiction of the IRS one jot. And despite the scale of the damage which the income tax does to the economy, the real evil of it is not quantitative at all—it is in the nature of the processes which it permits and, indeed necessitates.

The income tax and the people who collect it are, first and foremost, invaders of privacy on a truly colossal scale. The manifestation of this in the law is the numerous civil penalties to which one may be subjected even if he or she has paid all the taxes the government demands. The IRS has more information about you than anyone else, and any move to deny them that information is met with just as much sternness as an attempt to escape monetary taxation. The IRS simply must have this information to go on collecting the income tax. If we sentimentally require that some level of "fairness" be achieved too, the collection of information from and about everyone becomes more unavoidable.

The income tax subverts our whole system of law and reverses the proper relationship between the individual and the State. A comparison of the procedures followed in federal tax courts and any other court quickly verifies this. The people who wrote our tax laws figured—quite correctly—that the defendant would have to be assumed guilty and required to prove his innocence and that tax collectors would have to be allowed to seize first and explain later or the tax laws could not certainly be enforced. If people charged with tax evasion or some other violation of tax laws were accorded the same protections that the Constitution says criminal defendants should be accorded, they would be able to vote with their feet, and many of them would, leaving the government without its cut of their profits. The basic institution of most of the

economy or the political mood of the people. Against such a tax there is no protest which is not fraught with grave risks. It is the ideal scheme for allowing the government to pursue policies and actions which are totally out of line with the wishes of those who pay the bills, not only in the area of the collection of the tax itself, but in all areas of domestic and foreign policy as well.

The income tax gives the federal government control over the whole process of employment, which is the economic root of most people's lives. The government which can force your employer to file forms before he can hire you and to send in regular payments for your taxes can not only follow you from job to job throughout your whole life, it can, and does, exert powerful pressure on that employer to make it impossible for you to earn a living if for any reason you should fall from the graces of the government. It is not some kind of fluke that every President since (at least) Roosevelt has used IRS harassment of political enemies as a policy tool; it is built into the system. It is the root of the federal government's current control over people's lives and lifestyles. It is a crucial tool for smashing political dissent.

The income tax laws are an affront to the whole American concept of division of powers. The IRS is the executive branch run amok. It has taken over the function of the legislative branch by writing volumes of vague, self-contradictory regulations under an open-ended grant of authority from the Congress. It has usurped the judicial function by operating its own rather peculiar in-

house system of courts, as noted above. There is no effective check-and-balance control of the IRS, and a reading of the tax laws shows very clearly that there is not supposed to be any. It is only a matter of time before freedom dies under conditions such as these. But, again, not one proposal has been introduced in the Congress to change any of this.

There is, of course, resistance to the income tax, and it is slowly growing. Those are both pleasant realities. Some people resist because they are opposed to war and think the government spends too much on war. Some resist because they are opposed to abortions. Name any government policy or program, and you will find at least a few people who object violently to being forced to pay for it. And some of them actually resist paying. And, of course, some people resist simply because they object, on principle, to being forced to pay for anything. These people are still too few, and the history of what opposition the income tax has faced shows it.

Undoubtedly, the strongest opposition the income tax has ever faced has been from those conservatives who have worked for years to pass the Liberty Amendment to the Constitution, repealing the Sixteenth Amendment which allows federal taxation of income in the first place. But these people have indeed been mostly conservatives who were enraged by the particular things the government did with the money it collected. Few of them have been libertarians who were offended, first and foremost, by

the principle of forced collection of monies.

This really has to change if progress is to be made. It is long past time not only to slow down, but to stop and dismantle the income tax juggernaut. And to do so, we must argue only from principle, never from utilitarianism. The "Laffer curve" argument that federal tax rates should be cut in order to increase federal revenues is a pernicious cancer to the tax-resistance movement. Calls for "tax relief," which reduces the amount of current taxes while leaving the taxing apparatus in place, may be even more dangerous; in the long run. "Relief" is simply not enough. Further, reductions in one group's taxes usually are swiftly followed by searches for someone to tax more in order to "make up" the "lost" revenue.

Libertarians must become more visible and vocal among organized tax protesters. This will facilitate shifting the tone of the debate from protest against the amount of taxes collected to protest against the methods by which they are collected and the principle of taxation as theft. Conservative tax-cut rhetoric sounds good, but won't get the IRS off our backs. If the momentum of the current "tax revolt" is to come to anything other more than a more complicated budget process, we must start pushing now to popularize the only goal worth the long-term effort: removal of the income tax. We must keep that goal always in sight, reducing the scope of the IRS's authority at the same time that we reduce the amount of money it collects in taxes. Libertarians are the natural leaders in this drive.

Are You Ready For Some Fresh Thinking?

Are You Ready For reason?

accorded, they would be able to vote with their feet, and many of them would, leaving the government without its cut of their profits. The basic justification of most of the IRS's strongarm tactics has always been that without them people might flee the country and take their hard-earned cash with them.

The income tax is largely a "behind-the-scenes" tax. The money is removed from your paycheck before you ever get it (despite the best efforts of Vivian Kellems) and the money flows quietly, steadily to those who spend it irrespective of changes in the

LP members donate \$100/year, on average

If you've ever wondered whether the financial support you give the Libertarian Party is higher or lower than average, some figures from 1978 may surprise you.

Colorado LP members contributed an average of more than \$100 to state and national party organizations last year, including donations to specific election campaigns.

In California, the figure was even higher; the typical California LP member contributed over \$150, with one member in six contributing more than \$500!

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Are You Ready For reason?



Only one national magazine has the audacity to suggest that:

- Air travel might actually be safer without the Federal Aviation Administration
- Depoliticizing the West Bank—by converting it to a free trade zone—could bring peace to the Middle East
- The FCC exercises a particularly dangerous form of censorship, in violation of the First Amendment
- Demonopolizing education—e.g., via tax credits—offers the best hope of reconverting our schools to institutions of learning.

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1979 Colorado Liberta

Convention Impressions by Pat Donohue

On April 28 and 29 in Central City, over 120 Libertarians, while politicking and drinking beer, elected delegates to the 1979 Presidential Nominating Convention, conducted state party business, viewed the World Premiere of Dave Nolan's brilliant M. L. O'Drama, and experienced Karl Hess—what more could anyone ask! Bless you, Jan Prince, for putting together the best state convention we've ever had. We even made some money!

The Belvidere Theatre was the perfect setting—right out of the Old West, complete with Central's mayor (appropriately attired in jeans, cowboy boots and hat) welcoming the CLP to his city. Remember, it

was Gilpin County that yielded Roger MacBride the largest percentage in the 1976 campaign. From there, conventioners headed down the street to the Teller House and Central City Opera House for a look into the past. We felt in awe of the achievements of those early pioneers and miners who lived like libertarians.

Back to the Belvidere for a press conference with LP presidential contenders, Bill Hunscher and Ed Clark, moderated by M. L. Hanson. Each spoke for ten to fifteen minutes about their decisions to run for the nomination and outlined some of the important issues each would address if nominated. A period of questions and answers from the press and the convention floor

dealt with issues of concern such as abortion, nuclear energy, and tax cuts.

After a short break for more beer, the 1978 CLP Campaigns were analyzed. M. L. Hanson, who ran a statewide campaign for Treasurer of Colorado, reviewed the pluses and minuses of her campaign. She emphasized the importance of a statewide race to the CLP, offering tips on maximizing media exposure and where to invest resources for the largest return. She also shared a few humorous anecdotes about life on the campaign trail.

Jim Phelps, running for the statehouse as a tax protestor, began as a lineholder, but expanded his campaign for State Senate to spending about \$500 on small ads. He garnered about 1700 votes, which translated to 6% of the votes cast in his race.

Neil Smith ran for the statehouse against Ron Strahle, then Speaker of the House. His was a two-way race and Neil ran openly as an anarchist. He avoided wearing a tie (doesn't he always?) and emphasized radical utopianism, focusing on his vision of a libertarian future. Smith reported that media response was good and that his candidacy and the LP was taken seriously. In addition, audience reception at public forums was positive, so much so that other candidates appearing with Neil promised him their votes as well. Neil spent a total of \$44 and received about 2000 votes (13%), good results for an active lineholder.

After a break for even more beer, the convention was treated to an old fashioned M. L. O'Drama entitled "They Done Her Wrong."

Hess Urges Personal Autonomy

The feature address at the Colorado Libertarian Convention in Central City was given by Karl Hess, a unique person and perhaps the most unqualifiedly iconoclastic activist in the libertarian movement. His talk, for all that it was delivered in his very reserved, unexcited style, was probably the most passionate and persuasive of a week-end full of speeches.

Hess did not start by informing the audience about his unique background. Although in bits and pieces he recounted numerous significant events of his recent life, there must have been many in that audience with little or no prior knowledge of his development from being Barry Goldwater's principal speech writer to becoming a full-scale tax resister, a practicing anarchist and the author of several books on how others can do it, too. But it didn't matter. He launched directly into his subject matter—personal liberty, what is it, and how to use it.

When Hess started to talk in his calm, unloud voice, many people were still chattering and milling about. Three minutes later, when he had made one or two of his first points, a distinct attentive silence pervaded the room, broken only by his voice.

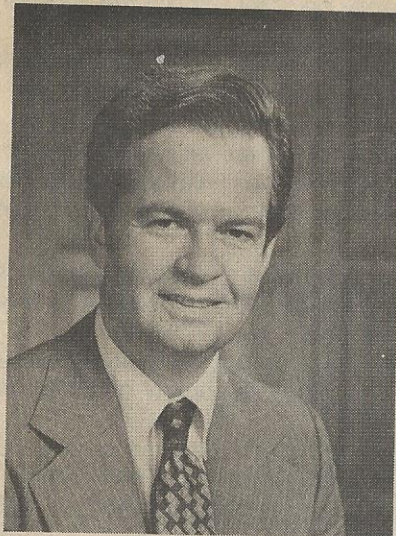
He said that "any way people do things voluntarily is acceptable," partly because "free people do things better than mere employees," whom he classes as at least partly non-free. And he is, by any accounting, a true activist. He said that "it is not enough to hold an opinion." He exhorted his listeners to do whatever they were good at, but to start working in "the non-State part of the world—the black market." Turning to offer some qualified praise for political action, he noted that "the strength of the Libertarian Party is happily divided between people with opinions about the world and people with knowledge about it.

Hess was interrupted numerous times in the course of his hour-plus address by enthusiastic, spontaneous applause. Whether it was illustrating his social philosophy with anecdotes about working as a welder in Washington D.C. (in spite of union rules) or lampooning President Carter ("the people who are supposed to be running the universe are dummies"), his fervor, honesty, and dedication came through. Perhaps the most enthusiastic response from the audience came when Hess urged "absolutely no compromise" on the draft. In calm but dead accurate terms, he identified con-



Neil Smith, Dave Nolan, M.L. Hanson, and Jim Phelps discuss their '78 campaigns

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first points, a distinct attentive silence pervaded the room, broken only by his voice.

He talked about his work as a welder, saying that to be free, you must be "the primary producer of your own liberty; you must begin manufacturing your own life." He criticized the "consumer" role, saying that only producers can be free and sure of remaining free. He dismissed the notion that laissez-faire is only an economic idea, and concluded that there must be "no division of labor when it comes to liberty" if liberty is to remain secure.

Then he launched into politics. He is not a member of LP, and generalizes his criticisms of government to criticize for the same reasons all major institutions. He contends that "preoccupation with the politics of the State must be only a holding action," for so he sees it. He specifically points out that he is not discouraging libertarians with the talent and inclination for politics from working within it, but he makes it clear that he believes there are many other skills and processes that are equally useful in the battle against power, and that they are grossly underused. Saying that "hatred of the State can be made a credible thought today," he encouraged those present to be always subversive of the State's plans, and to help others resist them.

Hess's libertarianism is radical and daring, but nothing if not rigorously consistent.

most enthusiastic response from the audience came when Hess urged "absolutely no compromise" on the draft. In calm but dead accurate terms, he identified conscription as raw, undisguised slavery, and warned that "to submit to this . . . is to submit to anything."

He also touched on the responsibility of libertarians to educate. He said that he doesn't feel sorry about people starving when they know how to produce food and don't do it, but he does feel bad about people being born and dying of starvation without ever having known that they could grow food.

This man's books are everywhere, and nearly everyone knows at least something about him. But no second-hand knowledge compares with the reality of the man. He is one of the intellectual giants of the 20th century. He has perhaps made a greater contribution to making liberty for all mankind a reality than any other living person. The hours of small-group discussion in which he was engaged as soon as he left the podium testified to the power of his ideas and words. If just a few of those present in Central City who would like to hear him speak again take some of his practical advice, he will have the kind of success he wants most. And the State, with its minions practiced in the arts of controlling and manipulating others, will be in trouble.



Loran Gayton, 78-79 State Chair, introduces Karl Hess

rian Party Convention

Yet another beer break and back to more serious business. National Committee Member-at-Large Carol Cunningham introduced Ed Clark, one of the two candidates for the LP Presidential Nomination. He recounted his campaign for Governor of California in 1978, and after discussing "How Far We've Come" since 1971, he presented his campaign plans should he win the LP nomination for President. He also addressed what he feels the Party as a whole needs to do in 1980. National Committee Regional Representative Rick White of Nevada introduced the other LP contender, Bill Hunscher, who spoke about his organizing of the New Hampshire LP. He presented his plans for the Presidential campaign, and also addressed the problems he thought the LP would face in 1980. Again, both men fielded questions from the floor, addressing abortion, drugs, and differences in campaign style and strategy. Throughout the day and evening both were available for one-to-one questions and small group discussions.

Another break for beer (why not?—after all, we're in Central City!), dinner, and hot political conversations, and back to the Belvidere for the movies, *Libra* and *Incredible Bread Machine*. The evening proceeded with a talk by anarchist and neighborhood activist, Karl Hess. His focus was on the eternal fight for Liberty at all costs, ending with a lively discussion fueled by questions from the floor. He was also available throughout the evening for individual questions and small group debates.

Sunday's agenda consisted of the Colorado Libertarian Party's business meeting, which included a review of last year's achievements. New officers were elected: John Mason, as State Chair, whose objective for this year is to establish greater party visibility by establishing an office and staff; Dave Nolan, as Campaigns Director, who pledged a two year commitment and will work for 10,000 ballot signatures by April 1980, saving spring and summer for local candidates; Dick Eshelman, as Membership Director, who promises an accurate, computerized membership list with an active affiliates and fellow-traveler list, and pledges to make all membership mailings self-



Bill Hunscher, M.L. Hanson, and Ed Clark at Press Conference

Clark, Hunscher Address Convention

Both announced contenders for the 1980 Libertarian Presidential nomination, Ed Clark and Bill Hunscher, spoke to the Colorado LP's 1979 convention in Central City, April 28 and 29, and both generated considerable interest.

The two appeared together on the stage of the Belvidere Theater in a joint press conference moderated by LP National Vice-Chair Mary Louise Hanson. A lot of the questions came from CLP members and observers, since the press was largely concentrating on the Rocky Flats anti-nuclear demonstration, which was held the same weekend. But, despite the attenuated press coverage, the questions began to bring out the differences in style and philosophical emphasis between the two candidates.

Both candidates talked about inflation as a top priority issue, about tapping the ranks of non-voters for support at the polls, and about the need for spirited resistance to the draft.

Hunscher repeatedly tied his comments on specific issues to the tone of his foreign policy proposals. He said that fiscal issues should be attacked from the expenditure side, giving a balanced budget a somewhat lessened priority. He spoke with particular fervor about re-opening the borders of the United States and "getting the economic pie growing again" so that immigration will pose no problems. He proposes a full-time, on-the-road campaign from the day the national convention ends in order to maximize media coverage of the LP ticket. He

could be trimmed off the present federal budget in four years, with a whopping \$40 billion coming from Department of Defense expenditures. His campaign plans center on picking three or four key issues to give the press and the media a comprehensible, consistent view of libertarian philosophy and progressively building the campaign up as it proceeds. Whereas Hunscher proposes to enter the New Hampshire Democratic primary, Clark wants to pepper the airwaves with LP spots as the other parties maneuver through their primaries to get press attention and push the three-party idea.

Colorado's seventeen delegates to the nominating convention in September will have a pleasant dilemma. Either Clark or Hunscher will make a credible and talented

puterized membership list with an active affiliates and fellow traveler list; and pledges to make all membership mailings self-supporting; M.L. Hanson, as Communications and Education Director, in a temporary capacity to train a replacement to handle the job; and Larry Piekenbrock, as Finance Director, who campaigned for a functioning bookkeeping system and a focus on fund-raising through direct mailing. Larry also made a two year commitment to the job.

The Convention then adjourned for one last beer that, for some, lasted into the night.

coverage, the questions began to bring out the differences in style and philosophical emphasis between the two candidates.

Later in the afternoon, each man gave a major solo address and fielded more questions. Clark was introduced by National Committeewoman Carol Cunningham (wife of his campaign manager), and Hunscher by his regional campaign director, Rick White, also a member of the National Committee. Hunscher came across as the more passionate and intense of the two, while Clark projected a relaxed, highly professional and experienced air as a speaker.

no problems. He proposes a full time, on-the-road campaign from the day the national convention ends in order to maximize media coverage of the LP ticket. He addressed the question of cutting the federal budget very pessimistically, saying that, because of off-budget items and legal mandates, a slowing down of the growth in spending and a return to present levels after four years was about the best that could be hoped for. He also proposed to use executive authority to achieve *de facto* deregulation.

Clark was more optimistic about the budget, saying that roughly twenty percent

Colorado's seventeen delegates to the nominating convention in September will have a pleasant dilemma. Either Clark or Hunscher will make a credible and talented Presidential candidate. Clark appeared to have picked up more delegate support at the Colorado convention than Hunscher, but it's still anybody's race. A delegates' caucus will be held in July which may reduce the number who are still uncommitted.

The Clark campaign can be contacted at 8006 Hesperia Avenue, Reseda, CA 91335 and the Hunscher campaign in Milford, NH 03055.

CLP Delegates to the 1979 Presidential Nominating Convention

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Alix Beeney
1612 Ridgeway
Colorado Springs, 80906
634-1073

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556 South Grant
Denver, Colorado 80209
722-3740



Clark Crane saves Alice Innocent from the Taxman in the M.L.O.' Drama (Pat Lilly, M.L. Hanson, and Dave Nolan)



Bill Hunscher and Karl Hess in lively discussion with Convention participants

A Bad Law, Imposed Under False Pretenses

The 55-mph Limit: A Hideous Hoax

by David F. Nolan

Five years ago, the Federal Government forced a 55-mph speed limit on America. It was done by threatening to withhold Federal highway funds from states which did not enact the new, lower limit; the funds in question, of course, were stolen from the people in those various states through taxation in the first place.

All in all, a typical Big Government "coerce and control" trip. Take the people's money, and then agree to give some of it back if they do what you tell them.

The reason given for this blatant usurpation of local autonomy was the then-extant gasoline shortage. "The 55-mph limit will save gas," bleated the Feds. "We must all slow down to stretch our precious fuel supplies."

Never mind that the fuel shortage had been caused by the government itself, through foreign meddling and disruption of the free market process. Never mind that billions of dollars had been spent to build highways designed for 70-mph travel. And never mind that most cars on the road were also designed for 70-mph cruising. The new rule was imposed.

Unfortunately, the promised fuel savings did not materialize. About a year after the new limit went into effect, the Department

of Transportation admitted—with some embarrassment—that according to their best calculations, the resultant reduction in fuel consumption was about *one percent* . . . less than could be saved simply by having everyone increase the pressure in their tires by two or three pounds.

And so, with the new data in hand, did our fearless leaders do the right thing and junk the 55-mph limit?

Hardly. Instead, they came up with a new justification.

"Well," said the safetycrats, "the lower speed limit may not save gas . . . but it *does* save lives." And at first glance, the figures seem to support that claim.

In 1973, the last year of the 70-mph speed limit, there were approximately 55,000 traffic fatalities; in the years 1974-76, the first three years the lower limit was imposed, the average number of traffic fatalities was about 46,000.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, leading defender of the 55-mph limit, claims that one-half of the 9,000 fatality reduction can be credited to the lowered highway speed limit. Not an insignificant saving—4,500 lives.

The NHTSA figures, however, conveniently ignore several facts which tend to

weaken their claim considerably. A thoroughly researched article by Rich Taylor, published in *Car & Driver* magazine (May, 1978) covers these other factors in some detail; space permits only a brief summary of his findings here.

Taylor first notes that the rules for determining the "body count" were changed from 1973 to 1974, by shortening the cutoff date for inclusion from one year after the accident to one month. This change alone reduces the fatality total by better than 2,000 lives.

He next points out that prior to 1974 the government's own figures show 60% of the fatal accidents occurring at speeds under 55-mph in any case—so at most, 40% of the 7,000-odd reduction in 1974 and beyond can be credited to the lower limit. This brings the number of lives saved down to under 3,000 annually.

Another 1,500 of the reduced total were pedestrians, he then notes; obviously not beneficiaries of lower highway speeds.

This leaves a saving of about 1,500 lives which might reasonably be credited to the 55-mph limit. Until you take into account the fact that later-model cars are more crash-worthy, that they are equipped with seatbelts, and so on and so forth.

Taylor's article concludes that in reality there is no reason to credit the 55-mph limit with saving *any lives at all*. (If you're skeptical, look it up in the library and analyze his figures for yourself.)

And even if you accept the government's estimate that it saves 4,500 lives annually, it's still a bad trade-off!

According to Professor Charles A. Lave, a member of the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California, writing in *Newsweek*, the costs of the 55-mph limit far outweigh the benefits even if you allow that it *does* save 4,500 lives.

The reason, simply enough, is that the 55-mph limit causes us to lose 2.7 billion person-hours of time each year, and *time has value*—about \$6 billion in this case. Lave points out that the lost-time cost of the 55-mph limit works out to about \$1.3 million per life saved—and there are lots of ways to save lives far more cost-effectively.

Putting it another way, he calculates that Americans spend an extra 102 years riding around in their cars for each life saved—if, in fact, the lower limit is saving lives at all. Since the average remaining life expectancy of people who die in traffic accidents is well under 102 years—probably about one-third of that amount—it becomes evident that the lower speed limit actually wastes our lives, rather than saving them.

So . . . the 55-mph speed limit doesn't save gas, doesn't save lives, and costs us \$6 billion a year in lost time. What can we do about it?

A good start would be to write your state legislators, Congressman, and Senators urging them to repeal the damn thing. Feel free to quote any or all of the facts and figures cited here.

However, in an era of government-induced fuel shortages, it is less than likely that our rulers will listen to reason. They need a scapegoat—and we, the people, are it. The 55-mph limit is a great propaganda weapon, a way to prove that they're "doing something"—and thus not likely to be repealed until we get some Libertarians in

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something, and thus not likely to be repealed until we get some Libertarians in office.

Which leaves us the options of going along or practicing civil disobedience.

For those who select the latter course, that piece of electronic wizardry known as a radar detector is probably a worthwhile investment.

Traffic tickets commonly cost in the \$25-\$35 range these days, with \$50 to \$75 penalties not uncommon for second and third "offenses." Insurance penalties can be even more costly. Court appearances are a hassle. And losing your driver's license is the biggest bummer of all.

According to test results reported in *Car & Driver* (February, 1979) the state of the art in radar detectors is a unit called *Escort*, that goes for \$250 and is available only by mail-order, direct from the manufacturer. Numerous other models costing \$120-\$160 offer more than adequate protection, however; the best of these is the *Bearfinder*, described by *C&D* as "a first-class ticket to rapid transit."

What are you waiting for?

911 Tapes Everything

A Colorado Springs crisis telephone service has discovered, accidentally, that the El Paso County 911 emergency phone service records all incoming calls, even after they are transferred to another agency. They also trace calls in which suicide is mentioned and dispatch police to the scene.

Terros, a private crisis hot line, has complained about the practice because they promise their callers confidentiality without traces or recordings. Until recently, Terros had been receiving calls patched through from 911. The arrangement has been suspended because the 911 bureaucracy refuses to amend their policy of taping everything and Terros wishes to protect the privacy of their callers.

Since Terros wants to receive the calls, however, further negotiation or court action is possible. The Terros Board of Directors has asked the ACLU for assistance. Board member Charles Malcolmson reports that the number of calls which should go to Terros but which go first to 911 will probably increase in the future, and Terros doesn't wish to be replaced by 911, a public agency. "If we had 911's promotional budget, it would be no problem," he says.

From the Chair by John Mason Preparing for 1980

In 1976, when I became active in the Libertarian Party, Roger MacBride was running for President, a handful of people were trying to get him on the ballot in Colorado, and nobody had the time, energy, or money to run for office themselves. As the campaign progressed through that year and more people got involved, membership, donations, and the general level of activity and excitement increased phenomenally. And the same thing was happening all over the country. By 1978, surely a banner year for the LP, the results of that campaign were obvious. Over 250 Libertarians ran for office last fall, Ed Clark got twice as many votes for Governor of California as MacBride did for President, and the results were consistently at least three times better than before. We were making great and unprecedented strides.

And now comes the 1980 Presidential Campaign. Blessed with two well-qualified and experienced candidates, we will be nominating our candidate in Los Angeles in September. Without a doubt, the 1979 convention will be the largest gathering of Libertarians in history. We are expecting thousands, and they will return to their home states to immediately begin petitioning for ballot status. With the momentum we have now, our candidate will be on the ballot in not 32 states, not 40, but in 45, 47, or just maybe, in all 50 states. The LP will be establishing itself in everybody's eyes as THE third party. And we better be ready.

In Colorado, we have been preparing for 1980 since completing our state campaigns last fall. The CLP has had a successful membership drive, established what I consider to

be the finest newspaper in the Libertarian Party, held its largest and most successful State Convention ever, put together a large and active delegation for the National Convention, and elected a slate of officers committed to making 1980 the success it promises to be.

In the planning process right now are numerous projects that will be necessary for an impressive 1980 campaign. Dave Nolan is beginning work on the petition drive which he hopes to start this fall and complete by April, leaving the summer open for getting our local candidates on the ballot. Preliminary discussions are underway, as well, to map a strategy for CLP state and local races in 1980. Dick Eshelman is computerizing our mailing list for more sophisticated use in the campaigns. Larry Piekenbrock is developing a more useful accounting system and investigating possible fund-raising projects. M. L. Hanson is organizing the *Liberty* staff (from four pages to eight pages in two issues isn't easy) and plans are to be publishing monthly some time in 1980. Finally, plans are underway to establish a permanent office and paid staff, with a target date for full operation of January 1980. Fund-raising for this project has already started.

If you are interested in any level of activity to help us prepare for the Presidential Campaign year, please call me at 733-5916, or come to one of the meetings published in the calendar. If 1976 is any indication, and with the start we have now, next year will be the most exciting and rewarding yet for the Libertarian Party. We're moving toward a three party system now. In 1980, let's establish it.

occupants complain by debating elementary economics), while this colony got itself going and swings around the globe in peace and contentment, selling their power (we're never told to whom), apparently quite free of the dictates of any government, even if they are threatened.

Movie Review: *Libra*

by Patrick L. Lilly

The much-touted libertarian movement film "*Libra*" had its Colorado premiere April 28 in Central City, at the state Libertarian convention. It was one of the low points.

The film is the work of World Research Inc., the same think tank that several years ago produced the "Incredible Bread

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National Committee Report

by John Mason National Committee Region 3 Representative

The quarterly Libertarian Party National Committee Meeting was held in Raleigh, North Carolina, on May 5 and 6, in conjunction with a Regional Conference sponsored by the NCLP. The conference was attended by well over 100 LP members from the region, and featured the LP Presidential candidates, workshops, a panel discussion on the Future of the LP (which included Neil Smith, Rick White, Bill Evers, and Murray Rothbard), and Ed Crane as the banquet speaker. Regional Conferences, under the guidance of National Vice-Chair M. L. Hanson and National Director Chris Hocker, have become an integral part of Natcom meetings and are consistently successful and exciting.

Committee business, which took place over two days, consisted of reports from the Regional Reps on state activities (mostly

made by M.L. Hanson, with Region 3 Representative Rick White and myself supporting it. However, after a motion to reconsider was made by Rick White, Childs was reinstated. While the arguments for Randolph (that as the first Libertarian candidate to win a major electoral office, he would be a more appropriate speaker) were impressive, the committee apparently felt that Randolph's current favorite-son status would be inappropriate for a keynote speaker.

In another controversial matter, the Natcom, after much debate, rescinded the earlier decision to extend the membership deadline by which delegates to the National Convention are allocated. The majority felt that the earlier action had been too liberal an interpretation of the Party Constitution, and that action now would preclude credentials arguments at the Convention in September.

The film is the work of World Research Inc., the same think tank that several years ago produced the "Incredible Bread Machine" film. But despite the better technical production quality of the new film, including the services of Gerard K. O'Neill as a consultant on space hardware, *Libra* is clumsy and hoky in trying to get its message across.

The rather thin plot concerns an orbiting space colony of free marketeers (Libra) with their own economy and culture set up, who sell microwave solar power to the energy-starved earth, while the International Planning Commission tries to (1) embarrass them on TV, and (2) tax them. But the free marketeers deliver boring monologues about rudimentary aspects of economic theory and the Commission and its minions are stereotypically cloddish and malign villains. As a result, most of the scenes which are supposed to be powerful come off as being laughably unconvincing.

The services of a good science fiction writer, for instance, might have given the viewer some credible idea of how we could have arrived at a situation wherein, in 2003, the tyrannical IPC can turn off all the heat in New York office buildings (about which the

and contentment, selling their power (we're never told to whom), apparently quite free of the dictates of any government, even if they are threatened.

Just hiring a good writer of nearly any kind would have helped pare down the amateurish, hackneyed diatribes which pervade the film. These, rather than believable details and interactions, introduce the viewer to the background situation. Pompous "good guys" and fidgety, scatter-brained apologists for the bureaucrats take turns delivering cliché-riddled monologues about how regulation is starving the planetary economy and the Librans are doing so much better. All the things they say are true, but the level of conversation is so simple that the characters sound like they're lampooning themselves as often as not. One really wonders if they are serious. As drama, the film falls flat on its face and the whole thing shrieks "corny propaganda film!"

Amidst the over-acted scenes of grown adults who supposedly have business decisions to make plodding through high-school-level libertarian theory, there's supposed to have been—and could have been—a real message. The whole film should be re-done. As it is, it may well offend and turn off more people than it enlightens.

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Committee business, which took place over two days, consisted of reports from the Regional Reps on state activities (mostly encouraging), reports from various committees, and a couple of controversial items. Among the most controversial was a move to change the National Convention Keynote Speaker. The Natcom has assumed more and more direct responsibility for the Convention programs, and while considering Ed Crane's convention report, it was moved to replace Roy Childs as keynote speaker with Dick Randolph, recently elected State Representative in Alaska. The motion was

interpretation of the Party Constitution, and that action now would preclude credentials arguments at the Convention in September. I voted against the rollback, arguing that the decision to extend had been in the best interests of the LP and did not necessarily violate constitutional provisions.

Other items included an outstanding report of the convention by Ed Crane, concerning which, a package will soon be mailed out. The convention promises to be the largest and most exciting gathering of Libertarians ever.

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Libertarian Sci-Fi Award Announced

Announcement was recently made of the establishment of an annual award for the best science fiction of a Libertarian character. The first Prometheus Award of \$2500 in gold will be made at the 1979 Libertarian Party Convention in Los Angeles in September.

Sponsored by a group of well-known Libertarian activists, including award committee Chairman L. Neil Smith of Fort Collins, the award this year will be for works published in 1978. Smith has stressed that the candidates must favor both civil liberties and economic freedom. The Prometheus Award Committee, which includes science fiction novelists such as Smith and Robert Anton Wilson, has exempted their own work from consideration.

The committee will accept nominations through July. Contributions to help defray costs are being accepted, and a newsletter is available. For more information, contact Neil Smith at 626 South Meldrum, Fort Collins, CO 80521, (303) 484-6824. The Prometheus Award Committee has no official connection with the Libertarian Party.

Hunscher Campaign Reorganized

Michael Emerling resigned as Campaign Manager for Bill Hunscher on May 12. The Hunscher campaign cited "professional reasons" for the resignation. Illinois LP activist Ken Sturzenacker, previously media coordinator for Hunscher, will take over as manager of the campaign.

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Fellow Libertarians:

In order to provide an office for the CLP on a continuing basis, we will require a constant source of income to pay for rent, phone, supplies, and hopefully staff. Consequently we are asking everyone to pledge a monthly contribution to the CLP Office Fund so that we can be sure of meeting these continuing expenses. These pledge payments will be specifically earmarked for the support of the office, and any amount from \$1.00 to \$1,000.00 will get us to our goal.

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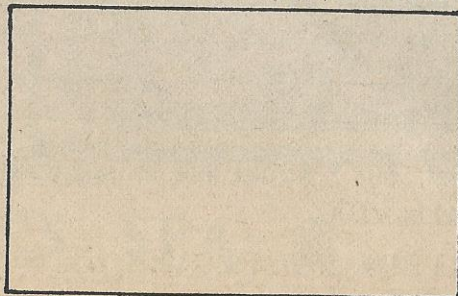
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